

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8681

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 5634

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CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (ROBINSON, CHARLES W.), ANZUS, AS

SUBJ: ANZUS COUNCIL MEETING

1. SUMMARY: AUGUST 3-4 ANZUS COUNCIL MEETING RESULTED IN EXCELLENT EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON ISSUES AFFECTING MEMBER NATIONS. IN ADDITION TO OVERVIEW OF WORLD POLITICAL SCENE, COUNCIL DISCUSSED SITUATION IN ASIA AND PACIFIC, U.S. AND SOVIET MILITARY POSTURES IN INDIAN AND PACIFIC OCEANS, AND NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION AND ARMS CONTROL. PARTICULAR EMPHASIS WAS PLACED ON SIVOET MOVES IN SOUTH PACIFIC AND POSSIBILITIES OF COUNTERING THESE MOVES. COUNCIL AGREED TO HOLD NEXT MEETING IN NEW ZEALAND IN 1977. END SUMMARY.

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2. DISCUSSION OF WORLD POLITICAL SCENE FOCUSED ON U.S.-USSR

RELATIONS AND STRATEGIC BALANCE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. GNZ AND GOA DELEGATES WERE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN DEPUTY SECRETARY ROBINSON'S ASSESSMENT OF U.S.-USSR BILATERAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS AND IN U.S. APPRECIATION OF INTERNAL SOVIET ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND DELEGATIONS ALSO SHOWED HIGH DEGREE OF INTEREST IN ADM. GAYLER'S VIEWS CONCERNING STRATEGIC BALANCE AND USSR MILITARY ACTIVITIES.

3. DEPUTY SECRETARY'S OBSERVATIONS WITH REGARD TO MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTHERN AFRICA WERE RECEIVED WITH INTEREST. GNZ MINISTER FOREIGN AFFAIRS TALBOYS STATED BELIEF THAT SUPPORT OF U.S. PUBLIC OPINION WOULD BE CRITICAL TO SEEING MIDDLE EAST PROBLEMS THROUGH TO SOLUTION. GNZ AND GOA PERCEPTIONS OF SITUATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA PARALLELED THOSE OF U.S. WITH AUSTRALIAN FOREIGN MINISTER PEACOCK OBSERVING THAT RHODESIAN SITUATION HAD A CERTAIN BUILT IN INEVITABILITY THAT WOULD HAVE TO BE MODERATED.

4. THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT OF VIEWS CONCERNING NORTHEAST ASIA. WITH REGARD TO KOREA, PEACOCK SAID GOA APPROACH WAS DESIGNED TO HELP INFLUENCE COURSE OF UNGA DEBATE FROM OUTSIDE OF CORE GROUP. GOA FELT SETTLEMENT OF KOREAN QUESTION DEPENDED ON U.S.-PRC AGREEMENT. IN MEANTIME, DEFERRAL OF DEBATE OFFERED BETTER PROSPECTS THAN DID CONFRONTATION IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

5. GNZ AND GOA WERE SERIOUSLY CONCERNED ABOUT IMPLICATIONS OF SOVIET EFFORTS TO OBTAIN RIGHTS FOR FISHING FLEET ANCHORAGE IN SOUTH PACIFIC ISLAND PORTS. TALBOYS AND PEACOCK INDICATED THEIR COUNTRIES HAD RESPONSIBILITY TO TAKE LEAD IN THWARTING SOVIETS IN SOUTH PACIFIC. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WAS KEY QUESTION AND WOULD BE MATERIALLY ASSISTED BY ESTABLISHMENT OF SOUTH PACIFIC SHIPPING LINE. DEPUTY SECRETARY ROBINSON AGREED THAT CLOSE CONSULTATIONS, OUTSIDE THE ANZUS CONTEXT, WERE CALLED FOR AND SUGGESTED WORKING LEVEL MEETING IN WASHINGTON IN EARLY SEPTEMBER TO DISCUSS OPTIONS.

6. AUSTRALIANS AND NEW ZEALANDERS SHOWED GREAT INTEREST IN CONFIDENTIAL

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DEPUTY SECRETARY'S COMMENTS CONCERNING NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION AND INDICATED READINESS TO SUPPORT EFFORTS TO IMPROVE SAFEGUARDS, AND CONTROL TECHNOLOGY AND THE SUPPLY OF URANIUM. GOA FOREIGN SECRETARY RENOUF INDICATED GOA WOULD BE MAKING DECISIONS ON EXPORT OF URANIUM TOWARD END OF YEAR. IT WOULD LIKELY DEMAND STRICTER CONTROLS THAN THOSE CONTAINED IN NPT. RENOUF ALSO MENTIONED POSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHMENT OF MULTINATIONAL NUCLEAR RECYCLING CENTERS NOTING THAT HE

UNDERSTOOD USG HAD SUCH A PROPOSAL IN MIND. DEPUTY SECRETARY ROBINSON STRESSED THAT POLITICAL WILL WAS 'SINE QUANON' FOR EFFECTIVE CONTROL PROGRAM.

7. COUNCIL AGREED THAT NEXT MEETING SHOULD BE HELD IN NEW ZEALAND IN 1977. DATE AND VENUE OF THE MEETING WILL BE DECIDED LATER.
ROBINSON

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